



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality

September 6, 2000



M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

J. Dale
Secr

GREAT LOUISIANA BEACH SWEEP AND INLAND WATERWAY CLEANUP SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

On Saturday, September 16, thousands of volunteers are expected to take to Louisiana's waterways and beaches to pick up litter as participants in the 2000 Great Louisiana Beach Sweep and Inland Waterway Cleanup. Volunteers in Louisiana will join others across America and in more than 90 countries as they spend one day removing litter from coastal beaches and inland waterways.

The event is coordinated by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)'s Litter Reduction and Public Action Program in conjunction with the Center for Marine Conservation, other federal and state agencies and private companies—with the help of citizens who want to be actively involved.

"The faces we see behind the trash this weekend will be those of hard-working volunteers who are taking one day to make a difference," noted DEQ Secretary J. Dale Givens. "Over the long term, we would like to see those who litter realize that it takes only a little more effort to recycle or to put trash in a trash can instead of throwing it on the ground or in the water."

Statistics show that more than 65 percent of trash collected during Beach Sweep can be recycled. As trash is collected and bagged, it is also catalogued in an attempt to identify the origin of the trash, with the hope that it can eventually be stopped at the source. Cigarette butts continue to be the number one form of litter, by number, found each year; drinking straws and styrofoam cups each make up more than six percent of the trash found along beaches and waterways. None of these items is biodegradable.

In addition to encouraging recycling and proper waste disposal, Beach Sweep also seeks to involve recreational and commercial fishers. First, they are asked not to throw old fishing line and fishing nets into waters where they fish. Discarded fishing line and nets continue to maim and kill fish, wildlife and marine mammals long after being thrown overboard. Nets and lines can get caught in boat propellers and plastic lines can clog water intakes. Second, anglers are asked to use dip nets on September 16 to retrieve any trash they see in the waters where they fish because many volunteers will be on foot and are not able to reach these remote areas.

Additional information about Beach Sweep is available from DEQ's Litter Reduction and Public Action personnel by calling (225) 765-0152 or (toll-free) (888) 763-5424.

Please contact the following **Beach Sweep Zone Coordinators** in your area for specific times and locations:

Acadiana Zone - (Harold Schoeffler– 318-234-5882)

Cameron Zone - East (Buddy Skidmore– 318-775-8840)

Cameron Zone - West (Nathan Griffith – 318-569-2484)

Chandeleur Zone (Stuart Wittenbach – 281-618-6000)

Fourchon Zone (Grady Galinno – 504-632-4666)

Grand Isle Zone (Josie Cheramie – 504-787-3196)

Lake Ponchartrain Zone (Dawn Boudreaux – 504-836 2238)

Please contact the following **Inland Waterway Cleanup Coordinators** in your area for specific times and locations:

Alexandria (Bettye Jones – 318-442-6671)

Bayou Teche (Harold Schoeffler – 318-234-5822)

Cane River Lake (Myrna Dunn – 318-357-3837)

Capitol Lakes (Jay Pecot – 225-765-2460)

Cross Lake, City Bayou, Red River (Donna Curtis – 318-222-6455)

Lake Bistineau, Red River (Dianne Chandler – 318 741-8509)

Lake Charles (Gerald Broussard – 318-491-1481)

Lake Martin & Bayou DeSiard (Theresa Privat – 318-332-1994)

Ouachita River, Within City Limits (Richard Moore – 318-345-6205)

Ouachita Parish (Bill Hay – 318-343-5636)

University Lakes (Dot Dickinson – 225-753-3181)